

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The present amendment amends claim 1, and adds new claims 9-21.

Claim 1 has been amended to address the claim objections and indefiniteness rejection, set forth on page 2 of the Official Action. Support for this amendment to claim 1 is believed to be provided by the originally filed claims and specification (see e.g., page 3, lines 21-29, and page 4, lines 6-19, 37 and 38).

Support for the addition of new claim 9 is found at specification page 4, lines 29.

Support for the addition of new claim 10 is found in claim 1 as originally filed.

Support for the addition of new claim 11 is found at specification page 4, lines 6-19, page 5, lines 29-39, page 6, lines 1-32, page 8, lines 10-19.

Support for the addition of new claims 12-14 is found at specification page 4, lines 7-19, page 5, lines 35-39, page 6, lines 1 and 28-32.

Support for the addition of new claim 15 is found at specification page 6, lines 17-20, and page 7, lines 1-3.

Support for the addition of new claim 16 is found at specification page 8, lines 5-8.

Support for the addition of new claim 17 is found at specification page 8, lines 21-23.

Support for the addition of new claims 18-21 is found at specification page 7, lines 22-29, as well as original claims 2-7.

It is believed that the amendment to claim 1, and the addition of new claims 9-21, have not resulted in the introduction of new matter.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-21 are currently pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended, and new claims 9-21 have been added, by the present amendment.

The rejection of claims 1-6 and 8, as well as new claims 9-21, under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and/or 103(a) as being anticipated and/or obvious over Rostami (WO00/29480 and U.S. Patent 6,689,832, which is the English language equivalent of thereof) is respectfully traversed.

Rostami describes an acrylic copolymer composition that necessarily contains mineral filler in substantial amounts of from 10 to 80 wt. %. In contrast, the polymethyl methacrylate molding composition, as claimed in claim 1 and new claims 10 and 11, does not require or include the presence of 10-80 wt. % mineral filler. In addition, Rostami describes that the acrylic copolymer composition has a preferred molecular weight of only 90,000 to 120,000. In contrast, claim 1 recites that the polymethyl methacrylate molding composition of the present invention has an average molar mass molecular weight of from 130,000 to 190,000 g/mol, with a preferred range of from 155,000 to 165,000 g/mol, as recited in new claim 9. Therefore, the acrylic copolymer composition of Rostami is fundamentally different from the polymethyl methacrylate molding composition of the present invention.

Rostami also describes an acrylic copolymer composition that further contains 1-50 wt. % of an MBS toughening agent. However, Rostami fails to describe specific weight percents of the various components within the MBS toughening agent. In addition, Rostami fails to describe specific particle diameters of the MBS toughening agent. Furthermore, Rostami fails to describe a flowability and a vicat softening temperature of the acrylic copolymer composition.

New claim 11 recites that the impact modifier composition comprises: from 50 wt. % to 70 wt. % methyl methacrylate; from 20 wt. % to 40 wt. % butyl acrylate, butadiene, or

both; from 0.1 wt. % to 2 wt. % allyl methacrylate; and from 0.5 wt. % to 5 wt. % vinylic comonomer. In addition, new claim 15 recites that the average particle size of the crosslinked elastomeric particle of the impact modifier composition is from 100 nm to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ . Furthermore, new claims 16 and 17 recite a flowability of about 10.0  $\text{cm}^3/10$  minutes and a vicat softening temperature of the impact-modified polymethyl methacrylate molding composition of greater than 105°C.

Rostami neither discloses, nor suggests to a skilled artisan, the specific weight percents of the above-identified components within, and the average particle sizes of, the impact modifier composition of the present invention. In addition, Rostami neither discloses, nor suggests to a skilled artisan, the flowability and vicat softening temperature of the impact-modified polymethyl methacrylate molding composition of the present invention. In fact, a skilled artisan would reasonably expect that the acrylic copolymer composition of Rostami would actually possess a different flowability and vicat softening temperature than those claimed. This is especially the case since the impact-modified polymethyl methacrylate molding composition, as claimed in claim 1 and new claims 10 and 11, does not require or include the presence of the requisite 10-80 wt. % mineral filler that is necessarily present in significant amounts within the acrylic copolymer composition of Rostami.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The objection of claim 1 is respectfully traversed in part and obviated by amendment in part.

Claim 1 recites a polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) molding composition comprising methyl methacrylate and optionally up to 4 wt. % vinylic comonomer. As such, the PMMA molding composition is either a methyl methacrylate homopolymer, or a copolymer of methyl methacrylate and a vinylic comonomer. Applicants submit that a copolymer of

methyl methacrylate monomer and a vinyllic comonomer does in fact afford a PMMA molding *composition* as currently claimed.

The objection of claim 1 for the misspelling of "moulding" is obviated by the foregoing amendment correcting the spelling thereof to recite "molding."

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this ground of objection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is obviated by amendment.

The rejection of claim 1 is obviated by the foregoing amendment replacing the recitation of a "thermoplastic" with a "PMMA molding composition."

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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